

ABSTRACT

Dissertation: Cross-Cultural Program Evaluation of Nepali Architecture Course through Qualitative Research of Alumni

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This dissertation uses qualitative research methodology (individual interviews with alumni of three separate graduating classes) as a means of evaluating the effectiveness of an architecture program at a private engineering college located just outside the city limits of Kathmandu, Nepal. Cross-cultural issues were an important aspect of the research as the researcher (a former teacher at the college) is an American while all the students were from Nepal. All interviews were transcribed and the data collected was analyzed primarily using the Constant Comparison/Grounded Theory approach. Triangulation of data from different individuals helped to verify observations and solidify conclusions. The presentation of the research retains individual anonymity of the subjects within the framework that they were all students of architecture in the Department of Architecture at Nepal Engineering College in Bhaktapur, Nepal. Effort was made to explain the epistemological position of the author and comments are included describing possible bias in various stages of the research and analysis process. The findings indicate a high level of success by the graduates of the program, especially in the early years of its existence. Graduates from more recent years describe less satisfaction with their architecture training. The findings from the research lead to specific suggestions for changes/ improvements in the architecture program at Nepal Engineering College.